



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

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DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
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FY22 GOS FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Updated 8/16/2021

Grant Program Name: General Operating Support (GOS)
Cohorts: Generalists (139 Applications – 136 Panelled)
Service Organizations (9 Applications – All Panelled)

Grant Program Description:

GOS offers general operating support to non-profit arts, humanities, and arts education organizations whose primary mission focus is in one or more of the following areas: dance, design, folk and traditional arts, fiction and non-fiction writing, media arts, music, theatre, or visual arts. The mission, as submitted on the organization’s most-recent IRS Form 990, must include the word(s) arts, humanities, and/or arts or humanities discipline. More than 51% of both the organization’s previous year’s cash expenses and programming/services must be devoted to the arts and humanities and/or arts education.

The Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021, recently passed by the Council, entirely removes the National Capital Arts Cohort (NCAC) from CAH’s establishment statutes and restructures the agency’s annual budget to allocate 54% of the grants budget to General Operating Support grants. Awards are to be competitive, with applications reviewed in cohorts of similar budget size, and with grant award amounts tiered in relation to the grantee’s budget size.

FY21 v. FY22

GOS saw an increase from 131 to 148 applications from FY21 to FY22.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Fund All Applicants?

Because of the challenges of the pandemic in 2020, it was decided to fund all applicants for the FY21 cycle.

Decision: Do we do the same this year or establish a cut-off for the lowest performing organizations as we’ve done pre-pandemic?

Grants Committee Recommendation: Fund all eligible applicants for FY22 GOS cycle.

Soft Landings?

One of the goals of GOS is to provide stability of funding from year-to-year. In the past, we have implemented a “soft landing” i.e. a partial award to organizations that have been GOS recipients in the past, to avoid them dropping out of funding range altogether.

Decision: Do we provide a soft landing to these organizations this year?

Grants Committee Recommendation: N/A as recommendation is to fund all eligible applicants.

DC-based Arts and Humanities Budgets versus Total Organizational Budgets?

There is a handful of GOS recipients that are not arts and humanities organizations, but who have substantial arts programs. For FY22, we asked a nuanced budget question to determine how much of an organization’s total cash expenses were dedicated to the arts and humanities in DC.

Decision:

(a) Do we determine funding levels based on the organization’s DC-based arts and humanities budget?

Grants Committee Recommendation: Yes

(b) Do we determine funding levels based on an organization’s arts and humanities budget?

Grants Committee Recommendation: N/A (because of answer to (a))

(c) Do we determine funding levels based on total organizational cash expenses?

Grants Committee Recommendation: N/A (because of answer to (a))

Proposed Budget Cohorts

Decision:

(a) Do the nine budget cohorts work as funding cohorts?

Grants Committee Recommendation: Yes

(b) Do the ranges of funding work for each budget cohort?

Grants Committee Recommendation: Yes

(c) Do we cap the total award amount based on a % of an organization’s budget? (We have previously funded no more than 30%-35% in GOS)

Grants Committee Recommendation: No

Funding Approach

- A plus or minus (+/-) variance was determined between each organization's ranking in FY21 and FY22 to indicate whether an organization did better or worse from one year to the next.
- A proposed range of funding was determined for each organizational budget group e.g. Organizations with budgets between \$400K-\$738k could expect an award size ranging between \$120k and \$140k.
- To determine each award, we used the mid-point of the range – in the case of organizations with budgets between \$400k-\$738k, that mid-point would be \$130k and then used the +/- variance to determine the final award.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Grants Committee recommends adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission agree to the proposed funding structure and award amounts, by cohort, for all 145 eligible applications to the Fiscal Year 2022 General Operating Support grants program for a combined total funding amount of \$16,455,000, as presented.

FY21 to FY22 GOS Comparisons (08.12.21)

Cohort (Budget sizes based on Arts/Hum progs.)	# of Orgs.	Average Org. Size	FY22 Band Range	Average FY22 Award	Avg. Award as % of Avg. Org. Bdgt.	FY22 Total Cohort Award \$	FY21 GOS (NCAC)	FY21 Average GOS Award (NCAC)	FY21 to FY22 Average Dec. (NCAC)	FY21 Average GOS Award (non-NCAC)	FY21 to FY22 Average Inc. (non-NCAC)
#1: \$8K - \$99K	23	\$ 67,705	\$40K - \$60K	\$ 50,000	73.8%	\$ 1,150,000				\$ 24,762	102%
#2: \$105K - \$214K	20	\$ 151,848	\$65K - \$85K	\$ 75,000	49.4%	\$ 1,500,000				\$ 26,942	178%
#3: \$232K - \$387K	19	\$ 306,583	\$100K - \$120K	\$ 110,000	35.9%	\$ 2,090,000				\$ 55,459	98%
#4: \$400K - \$738K	23	\$ 560,256	\$120K - \$140K	\$ 130,000	23.2%	\$ 2,990,000				\$ 55,549	134%
#5: \$777K - \$980K	12	\$ 896,461	\$120K - \$140K	\$ 130,000	14.5%	\$ 1,560,000				\$ 71,602	82%
#6: \$1.0M - \$1.7M	21	\$ 1,320,017	\$125K - \$145K	\$ 135,000	10.2%	\$ 2,835,000	5	\$ 305,334	-55.79%	\$ 69,575	94%
#7: \$1.85M - \$3.0M	13	\$ 2,325,846	\$130K - \$150K	\$ 140,000	6.0%	\$ 1,820,000	5	\$ 324,618	-56.87%	\$ 83,612	67%
#8: \$3.6M - \$6.0M	5	\$ 4,892,531	\$150K - \$170K	\$ 160,000	3.3%	\$ 800,000	3	\$ 368,921	-56.63%	\$ 105,859	51%
#9: \$10.5M+	9	\$ 15,357,358	\$180K - \$200K	\$ 190,000	1.2%	\$ 1,710,000	8	\$ 552,448	-65.61%	\$ 90,563	110%
Total:	145					\$ 16,455,000	21				

This scenario reduces total NCAC organization awards from \$8,674,598 (FY21) to \$3,375,000 (FY22) or by 61%